CLAIMS

1. A device having a connector for connecting the device to an interface of a computer system, the device having a storage medium storing an operating system including a boot program,

wherein the operating system includes a driver to convert an input/output instruction from the operating system to a message that the storage medium understands,

the device being operable, when the device is connected to the interface of a computer system having a RAM memory, to download the operating system directly into the RAM memory of the computer system, and

whereby using the device the operating system can be loaded from the device directly into the RAM memory of a plurality of computer systems.

2. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the storage medium is a solid-state non-volatile memory device.

3. The device as recited in claim 2, wherein the solid-state non-volatile memory device is one of a group consisting of a ThumbDrive, a CompactFlash card, a Secure Digital card and a Memory Stick.

4. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the storage medium includes a read/write memory for storing user data.

5. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the interface is one of a group consisting of a Universal Serial Bus (USB), a CompactFlash Input/Output (CF I/O), a Secure Digital Input/Output (SD I/O) or a Memory Stick Input/Output.

6. A method to load an operating system, comprising:

locating a boot program based on a booting sequence, wherein an external storage medium is listed as a first boot device;

loading the boot program; and

loading the operating system, the operating system including a driver to convert an input/output instruction from the operating system to a message that the external storage medium understands.

7. The method to load an operating system as recited in claim 6, wherein the external storage medium is a solid-state non-volatile memory device.

8. The method to load an operating system as recited in claim 7, wherein the solid-state non-volatile memory device is one of a group consisting of a ThumbDrive, a CompactFlash card, a Secure Digital card and a Memory Stick.

9. The method to load an operating system as recited in claim 6, wherein the boot program is loaded from a subsequent boot device in the boot sequence if the external storage medium is not detected.

10. The method to load an operating system as recited in claim 6, wherein the boot program is loaded from a subsequent boot device in the boot sequence if the boot program is not available on the external storage medium.

11. The method to load an operating system as recited in claim 6, further comprising passing control of a computer system to the operating system.

12. A computer system comprising:

a Central Processing Unit;

a basic input/output system to instruct the Central Processing Unit;

an interface coupled to the Central Processing Unit, wherein the interface is to interface an external storage medium where an operating system is stored, the operating system including a driver to convert an input/output instruction from the operating system to a message that the external storage medium understands; and

a random access memory coupled to the Central Processing Unit, wherein the random access memory is where the operating system is to be loaded,

the computer system being arranged to load the operating system from the external storage medium into the random access memory.

13. The computer system as recited in claim 12, wherein the external storage medium is a solid-state non-volatile memory device.

14. The computer system as recited in claim 13, wherein the solid-state non-volatile memory device is one of a group consisting of a ThumbDrive, a CompactFlash card, a Secure Digital card and a Memory Stick.

15. The computer system as recited in claim 12, wherein the interface is one of a group consisting of a Universal Serial Bus (USB), a CompactFlash Input/Output (CF I/O), a Secure Digital Input/Output (SD I/O) or a Memory Stick Input/Output.

16. The computer system as recited in claim 12, wherein the basic input/output system is to locate a boot program based on a boot sequence.

17. The computer system as recited in claim 16, wherein the external storage medium is a first boot device in the boot sequence.

18. The computer system as recited in claim 17, wherein the boot program is loaded from a subsequent boot device in the boot sequence if the external storage medium is not detected.

19. The computer system as recited in claim 17, wherein the boot program is loaded from a subsequent boot device in the boot sequence if the boot program is not available on the external storage medium.

20. The computer system as recited in claim 12, wherein the driver is to adapt the interface to a Small Computer System Interface.